



9 August 2006



## **Ulchi Focus Lens 2006 Safety Message**

1. Our annual Ulchi Focus Lens (UFL) Exercise starts soon. It will be a demanding exercise that presents great opportunities for our combined and joint warfighting team to evaluate our mission essential tasks and improve our war fighting capabilities. It is essential that we receive maximum benefits from this training event. Should war come, the success of our ROK-US Alliance will be largely determined by our ability to execute our plans to standard and this exercise represents an important step in that process.

2. Some of our formations will conduct potentially high risk training during UFL 2006. I want the risk associated with these type events mitigated to no more than moderate risk, and low risk if at all feasible. Commanders and leaders at all levels must take actions to minimize the hazards and mitigate these risks. As exercise play evolves, the potential for accidents increases. In many cases the increased potential results from overconfidence, fatigue, complacency, and weather. Reviewing lessons learned from previous training exercises can help you better understand how to overcome these challenges.

- Servicemembers have a can-do spirit and are prone to do whatever it takes to get the mission done. Leaders must ensure that their personnel are challenged, but operate within their limits. Overconfidence can result in tragedy.
- Fatigue tends to set in after several days of hard training which lends itself to taking shortcuts. This can result in disaster. Leaders need to be keenly aware of the physical and mental condition of their personnel to guard against the risks that result from fatigue.
- One of the side effects of fatigue and / or redundancy is complacency. As the exercise progresses and people do the same mission for an extended period of time, they perceive risks to be lower than they actually are--setting the stage for an accident. Everyone will have to remain sharply focused throughout the entire period of the exercise to ensure we complete this training event safely.
- August is the hottest month of the summer and poses great risks for hot weather related injuries. To reduce the potential for hot weather related injuries, leaders must understand the cumulative effects of heat exposure and organize work schedules to prevent overexposure, ensure their personnel are properly acclimatized, and make sure they drink sufficient amounts of water.

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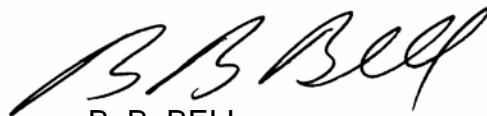
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**FREEDOM'S FRONTIER!**

3. I am committed to the achievement of our UFL '06 training objectives. I am equally insistent that we execute the training safely. We can do this. Our achievable goal is no serious injury or loss of life. Commanders and leaders, take charge of your units. Servicemembers, I want you to train and conduct operations safely. Together, we can accomplish our training objectives and safety responsibilities – avoiding tragic accidents and injuries. Let's work together as a team to ensure one another's safety while we train to execute our "fight tonight" mission.

4. We Go Together!



B. B. BELL  
General, US Army  
Commander

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